

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of producing embryonic or stem-like cells comprising the following steps:

(i) inserting a desired human or mammalian cell or cell nucleus into an enucleated animal oocyte, wherein such oocyte is derived from a different animal species than the human or mammalian cell under conditions suitable for the formation of a nuclear transfer (NT) unit;

(ii) activating the resultant nuclear transfer units;

(iii) culturing said activated nuclear transfer units until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and

(iv) culturing cells obtained from said cultured NT units to obtain embryonic or stem-like cells.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cell inserted into the enucleated animal oocyte is a human cell.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said human cell is an adult cell.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said human cell is an epithelial cell or lymphocyte.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the oocytes are obtained from a mammal.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the animal oocyte is obtained from an ungulate.

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7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said ungulate is selected from the group consisting of bovine, ovine, porcine, equine, caprine, and buffalo.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the enucleated oocyte is matured prior to enucleation.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the fused nuclear transfer units are activated by exposure to ionomycin and DMAP.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the activated nuclear transfer units are cultured on a feeder layer culture.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the feeder layer comprises fibroblasts.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein in step (iv) cells from a NT unit having 16 cells or more are cultured on a feeder cell layer.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said feeder cell layer comprises fibroblasts.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said fibroblasts comprise mouse embryonic fibroblasts.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the resultant embryonic or stem-like cells are induced to differentiate.

16. The method of Claim 2, wherein the resultant embryonic or stem-like cells are induced to differentiate.

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18. Embryonic or stem-like cells obtained according to the method of Claim 1.

20. Human embryonic or stem-like cells obtained according to the method of Claim 3.

22. Human embryonic or stem-like cells obtained according to the method of Claim 6.

24. Differentiated human cells obtained by the method of Claim 16.

26. A method of therapy which comprises administering to a patient in need of cell transplantation therapy isogenic differentiated human cells according to Claim 24.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein said cell transplantation therapy is effected to treat a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, spinal cord defects or injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, liver disease, diabetes, heart disease, cartilage defects or injuries, burns, foot ulcers, vascular disease, urinary tract disease, AIDS and cancer.

28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the differentiated human cells are hematopoietic cells or neural cells.

29. The method of Claim 26, wherein the therapy is for treatment of Parkinson's disease and the differentiated cells are neural cells.

30. The method of Claim 26, wherein the therapy is for the treatment of cancer and the differentiated cells are hematopoietic cells.

31. The differentiated human cells of Claim 24, which contain and express an inserted gene.

32. The method of Claim 1, wherein a desired gene is inserted, removed or modified in said embryonic or stem-like cells.

33. The method of Claim 32, wherein the desired gene encodes a therapeutic enzyme, a growth factor or a cytokine.

34. The method of Claim 32, wherein said embryonic or stem-like cells are human embryonic or stem-like cells.

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35. The method of Claim 32, wherein the desired gene is removed, modified or deleted by homologous recombination.

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